

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/955,940

Examiner

Amir Alavi

Applicant(s)

AIHARA, NOBUHIRO

Art Unit

2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to The filing of 20 September 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 13 November 2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William C. Rowland on, 02 September 2004.
- The application has been amended as follows:
- In Claim 11, lines 1-2, please change, "A computer program product making a computer execute the steps of " to read --A computer program embodied in a computer readable medium for performing the steps of--.
- In Claim 12, lines 1-2, please change, "A computer program product making a computer execute the steps of " to read --A computer program embodied in a computer readable medium for performing the steps of--.
- In Claim 13, lines 1-2, please change, "A computer program product making a computer execute the steps of " to read --A computer program embodied in a computer readable medium for performing the steps of--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed towards an image processing method and apparatus. Independent claims 1,10,11 and 13 identify the uniquely distinct feature, “ for determining scene information indicating a character of a received image while deciding a correction level for correcting said image in accordance with said determined scene information and correcting said image in a uniform color space in accordance with said decided correction level”; while claims 8 and 12 identify the uniquely distinct feature, “ for detecting an attribute of each of plurality of rectangular regions based on a transformed color signal while deciding a correction level for each of said rectangular regions in accordance with said detected attribute and correcting a received image for each of said rectangular regions in a uniform color space in accordance with said decided correction level”. The closest prior art, Spaulding et al. (USPN 5,805,213) disclose wherein multi-channel color image signals from a digital camera having multi-channel image sensors are corrected to account for variations in scene

illuminant, this is accomplished by determining the scene illuminant and determining an optimum color correction transformation in response to the scene illuminant which transform minimizes color errors between an original scene and a reproduced image by adjusting three or more parameters, while Gindele et al. (USPN 6,594,388 B1) disclose color image reproduction of scenes with preferential color mapping and scene dependent tone scaling, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitation obvious.

- Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

- Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Amir Alavi whose telephone number is (703) 306-5913.
- The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Leo Boudreau, can be reached at (703) 305-4706.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

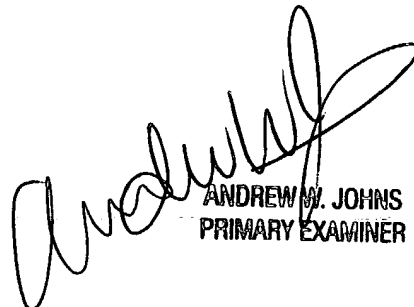
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, ("draft" or "informal" communications should be clearly labeled to expedite delivery to Examiner)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the T.C. Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.



ANDREW W. JOHNS
PRIMARY EXAMINER